

2010-11 Mental Health Services Act Work Plan

Board of Behavioral Sciences and Department of Mental Health

Goals, Objectives and Desired Outcomes

GOAL 1: REVIEW AND REVISE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS LICENSED BY THE BOARD, WITH EMPHASIS ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS (MFTs), LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS (LCSWs) AND LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS (LPCCs).

Desired Outcome: Curricula of the mental health professionals licensed by the Board incorporates the values and principles of the MHSA.

GOAL 2: REVIEW AND REVISE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE AS AN MFT, LCSW AND LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST (LEP).

Desired Outcome: Review the examinations for licensure of the mental health professionals licensed by the Board to determine whether the values and principles of the MHSA can be incorporated.

Objective 1: Promote Recovery/Wellness through independence, hope, personal development, and resiliency in the educational programs preparing the mental health professionals licensed by the Board.

Desired Outcome: Future mental health professionals licensed by the Board are immersed in MHSA principles and practices, resulting in a workforce capable of providing effective consumer-driven care.

2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. Work intensively with schools that educate future Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) regarding MHSA-related content mandated by SB 33	2010-2012	BBS	BBS-sponsored SB 33 was signed in 2009 and takes effect August 1, 2012. 25 schools are working to implement the changes early. BBS will provide additional assistance to educators in the form of a sample curriculum map, sample course syllabi, website resources, identifying external resources for technical assistance, and consultation with educators. BBS will contract with experts to assist in the review of schools who have submitted their SB 33-compliant curriculum to BBS.
B. Work intensively with schools that educate future Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) regarding MHSA-related content mandated by SB 788	2010-2012	BBS	BBS-supported SB 788 was signed in 2009. LPCC educational requirements closely mirror the MHSA content of SB 33 for MFTs, also beginning August 1, 2012. BBS will contract with experts to review LPCC curriculum.
C. Explore how the education of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) can be modified to better address competencies and skills that reflect the principles and practices	2010-2011	BBS	The Board's Licensing and Examination Committee is expected to continue the work of the former LCSW Education Committee in 2011. This will include meeting with stakeholders such as CalSWEC.

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of the MHSA.			
Objective 2: Increase consumer and family member participation in the Board's activities. <i>Desired Outcome: Promotion of the meaningful inclusion of consumers and family members in incorporating their viewpoints and experiences.</i>			
2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. The BBS will assist schools to bring in consumers and family members to help educate students about consumers' and family members' perspectives.	Ongoing	BBS	SB 33 and SB 788 mandate that MFT and LPCC schools, respectively, provide opportunities for students to meet with consumers and family members beginning August 1, 2012.
B. The BBS will involve consumers and family members in its Ethics Review Committee meetings. RELATED: See Objective 5.A	2011-2012	BBS	This will enable consumers and family members to help shape the ethical guidelines relating to the practice of psychotherapy in California, thereby making those services more consumer-oriented.
Objective 3: Work with stakeholders and others to review and possibly revise the ethics codes for MFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs and LEPs to reflect differences when working in a recovery-oriented practice environment. <i>Desired Outcome: The ethics codes or interpretations of ethics codes more closely align with the MHSA principles and practices.</i>			
2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. Review ethics codes or common interpretations of ethics codes to more closely align with MHSA principles and practices	2011-2012	BBS	The Board will begin this work after an LPCC board member has been appointed, expected in mid-2011. This will allow the LPCC profession's ethics code to also be addressed.
Objective 4: Implement strategies to address demographic disparities between providers of mental health services and consumers. <i>Desired Outcome: Improve access to mental health services.</i>			
2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. Identify and publicize student loan repayment programs, stipends, grants and other funding sources to assist disadvantaged groups in pursuing education required for licensure, or to work in a community mental health setting that serves diverse clients.	Ongoing	BBS	BBS has identified and publicized funding opportunities for schools, such as the Cal-SEARCH program, and for professionals working in underserved areas, such as the NHSC, FLRP and SLRP and federal grants. BBS has advocated to the NHSC for the inclusion of California-licensed LCSWs and supported the use of the national ASWB examination to assist in that effort.

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B. The Board's Licensing and Examination Committee will address demographic disparities and cultural issues	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>BBS</i>	The Committee will review DMH's evaluation report, "California's Public Mental Health Workforce: A Needs Assessment" when it becomes publicly available, OSHPD's Health Care Workforce Clearinghouse data, and other sources to determine further research or action needed.
C. Identify, analyze and present to the Board state and federal legislation and regulations that have an impact on demographic disparities, including federal health care reform.	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>BBS</i>	This will assist in identifying potential federal or other funds available to support a diverse workforce in underserved areas. The federal legislation makes several stipend and other programs available for schools that train future mental health professionals. The Board will closely monitor pending federal regulations implementing these programs and work closely with DMH, OSHPD and public mental health stakeholders to maximize federal funding to the State of California.

Objective 5: Educate Board members, staff and BBS licensees about the MHSA and public mental health service delivery.

Desired Outcome: Increased Board member, staff and licensee knowledge of practitioner, consumer and family member experiences in public mental health and of MHSA principles and practices.

2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. Invite public mental health employers, consumers and family members to present about mental health recovery and the consumer/family member perspective at Board and/or Committee meetings whenever possible.	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>BBS</i>	Consumers and family members will be reimbursed for travel expenses whenever possible. This will enable BBS to ensure that the consumer and family member perspective is taken into consideration.
B. Identify reports, research and news stories of interest related to public mental health and send periodically to BBS staff and Board members	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>BBS</i>	This will assist BBS staff and Board members to maintain knowledge about emerging trends in mental health and the needs of consumers, family members, employers and the workforce and to consider changes when necessary.
C. Prepare newsletter articles for BBS licensees and registrants about the MHSA and related mental health initiatives	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>BBS</i>	This will enable BBS to continue alerting its licensees and registrants about federal and foundation funding opportunities as they become available and about the Governor's initiatives.

Objective 6: Review and possibly revise examination requirements for licensure as a MFT, LCSW, and LEP.

Desired Outcome: The Board will determine whether examination requirements can be made consistent with the principles and values of the MHSA.

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2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. Determine next steps based on the MHSA competencies review	2011-2012	BBS	The Board will analyze the reports that compare MHSA competencies and BBS examination content for each profession and determine how competencies not represented can be integrated into the examinations.
B. Monitor the Board's proposed examination changes and advise executive staff regarding potential impact on the public mental health workforce and employers	2011-2012	BBS	The Board has proposed restructuring its examination program and is considering the use of national examinations in the future.

Objective 7: Strengthen and reinforce connections between BBS, students, educational institutions, consumers/family members, and public mental health employers

Desired Outcomes: Newly licensed professionals will possess the competencies identified in the DACUM studies; at-risk students will have a solid understanding of licensure requirements; and workforce impacts will be addressed.

2010-11 Activities	Timeline	Primary Responsibility	Comments
A. Monitor workforce issues identified in the "MHSA 5-Year Workforce Education and Training Development Plan" and recommend strategies to address	Ongoing	BBS	Staff will utilize DMH's MHSA evaluation report, "California's Public Mental Health Workforce: A Needs Assessment" when it becomes publicly available, OSHPD's Health Care Workforce Clearinghouse data, DACUM studies, and other sources of workforce information.
B. Perform outreach to students, schools and supervisors in underserved areas to assist in understanding MHSA mandates, the licensing process and other requirements	Ongoing	BBS	Students in underserved areas or who speak a language other than English are at risk of not complying with all licensing requirements. BBS will ensure that such students are targeted in outreach efforts. Additionally, schools and supervisors will be targeted to ensure MHSA and other related mandates are met.
D. Support implementation of and ensure MHSA compliance in the new Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) program	2010-2012	BBS	This includes participating in BBS planning and implementation sessions, ensuring compliance with MHSA-related mandates, providing guidance to staff and developing informational materials.